TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2003 LB 602

contact with a high school friend who he and I differ a great deal on politics. In fact, our phone conversation went to four hours the other night. We hadn't talked for several years. And so I ran past him some of my legislative proposals this year and I asked about the cloning. He said he's against it.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: And I further stated, now, are you sure you're against cloning, because it would include therapeutic cloning? Says, yeah, I'm against that too. And as I said, this is someone who differs politically a great deal from myself, and so I asked him why. And it does get back to that cloning is creation of a type of person. It's not creating a person because when we...or I shouldn't say not creating a type of person but it's that choosing of what type, by choosing that original cell or what we're going to transfer with. The beauty of human life, are so many of the unknowns. That unknown potential of what some people discount as a mere fetus. I call it an unborn human. But...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. This is a good discussion and I hope that you all are learning from it, as I am. I don't think that any of us can claim to be experts about this cloning process. I would like to share an article with you that I think is really interesting and really kind of tells us where we are in the whole development of this research, and it comes from an article in the New York Times, which was published three days ago, and it talks about Pennsylvania researchers turning stem cells to egg cells. Says scientists at the University of Pennsylvania have taken stem cell research in a novel direction, showing how the cells can be converted in the laboratory into egg cells, like those produced in the ovary. The work has some theologians reconsidering their ideas about the nature of life. Use of such eggs might make